

Message Text

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PAGE 01 GENEVA 05954 081917Z

71

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 NEA-10 IO-14 ISO-00 CU-04 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 TRSE-00

SAJ-01 OIC-04 AEC-11 OMB-01 DRC-01 /178 W

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R 081800Z NOV 73

FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2477

INFO ALL CSCE CAPITALS 57

XMT ZEN/USINT ALGIERS

XMT ZEN/AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USNMR SHAPE

USCINCEUR

USLOSACLANT

USDOCOSOUTH

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VIENNA ALSO FOR USDEL MBFR

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: CSCE: SUB-COMMITTEE ON MILITARY SECURITY (CBMS);
SOVIET AND CZECH STATEMENTS ON EXCHANGE OF OBSERVERS

1. AT NOV 7 MEETING OF SUB-COMMITTEE ON MILITARY SECURITY (CBM'S), SOVIET AMB MENDELEVITCH PROVIDED DETAILED EXPOSITION OF USSR POSITION ON QUESTION OF EXCHANGING OBSERVERS AT MILITARY MANEUVERS AFTER CZECH REP BROKE GROUND ON SUBJECT DAY BEFORE.

2. MENDELEVITCH EXPLAINED THAT SOVIETS REGARD SUCH EXCHANGES AS AN INTERESTING NEW STEP WHICH COULD PLAY A USEFUL ROLE WITH RESPECT TO EUROPEAN SECURITY. HE CAUTIONED, HOWEVER,
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PAGE 02 GENEVA 05954 081917Z

THAT SUCH EXCHANGES WOULD HAVE TO DEVELOP GRADUALLY AND

COULD NOT BE MADE COMPULSORY OR AUTOMATIC IN EACH CASE IN WHICH A MANEUVER WAS NOTIFIED. EXCHANGES SHOULD BE BY INVITATION ONLY. IN THE CASE OF A NATIONAL MANEUVER, THE NATIONAL HOLDING IT WOULD EXTEND THE INVITATION IF IT SO DESIRED. IN THE CASE OF MULTINATIONAL MANEUVER, THE COUNTRY OR COUNTRIES ON WHOSE TERRITORIES THE MANEUVER WAS TAKING PLACE SHOULD ISSUE ANY INVITATION. IN EITHER CASE, INVITATIONS SHOULD PRIMARILY BE EXTENDED TO NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES BUT MIGHT ALSO INCLUDE OTHERS. THE NUMBER OF OBSERVERS INVITED WOULD BE LEFT UP TO THE NATION EXTENDING THE INVITATION. AS FOR OTHER MODALITIES, MENDELEVITCH STRESSED THAT CSCE SHOULD NOT TRY TO STIPULATE ANY UNIFORM OR RIGID PATTERN FOR OBSERVER EXCHANGES SINCE THERE WAS NO PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE TO DRAW UPON. HE OBSERVED, MOREOVER, THAT EXCHANGES OF OBSERVERS COULD NOT BE CARRIED OUT UNDER SOME FIXED CONDITION WHICH WAS UNDESIRABLE FROM THE POINT OF VIEW OF THE NATION EXTENDING THE INVITATION. IN GENERAL, HE THOUGHT BOTH THE INVITEES AND THE HOST COUNTRY SHOULD APPROACH THESE EXCHANGES "MODESTLY".

3. SEVERAL OF THE POINTS MENDELEVITCH MADE WERE ALSO CONTAINED IN A STATEMENT BY THE CZECH REP AT THE SUB-COMMITTEE'S NOV 6 MEETING. THE CZECH STRESSED THAT THE INVITATIONAL BASIS OF THE OBSERVER EXCHANGES WOULD REFLECT THE SOVEREIGN RIGHTS OF STATES AND THEIR GOODWILL TOWARDS OTHERS. HE RECALLED THAT SOME DELEGATIONS HAD EXPRESSED VIEW THAT SHORT PERIOD OF PRIOR NOTIFICATION OF MANEUVERS WHICH SOVIETS AND THEIR ALLIES HAD PROPOSED WOULD BE INADEQUATE FOR EXCHANGING OBSERVERS AT THESE MANEUVERS. CZECH REP ARGUED THAT A FEW DAYS' NOTICE WOULD, IN FACT, BE SUFFICIENT, PARTICULARLY SINCE OBSERVERS WOULD NOT HAVE TO TRAVEL FAR BUT ONLY TO FRONTIER ZONES. (COMMENT: THIS LINE IS LINKED TO SOVIET ARGUMENT THAT PRIOR NOTIFICATION SHOULD BE GIVEN ONLY OF THOSE MAJOR MANEUVERS TAKING PLACE IN RELATIVELY NARROW BANDS OF TERRITORY ALONG FRONTIERS. END COMMENT) BASSIN

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